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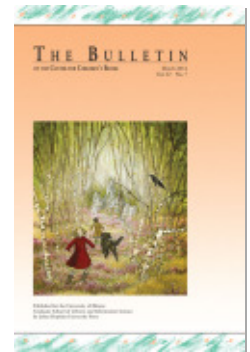
Beauty and the Beast by Ursula Jones, ad. (review)

Jeannette Hulick

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deserve the fates they suffer at the hands, or more precisely, the teeth of a female shape-shifter. However, the tale of a girl who falls in love with an artificial life form and has to set her entire space colony adrift in order to save him is less familiar (Pinocchio? Pygmalion?), as is the tale of a group of boys who seduce girls in order to eat them in vampiric fashion, and there are no notes to provide clues. The complete lack of peritextual materials is odd in a collection of this sort and the romances are ultimately fairly bland, but readers who like their supernatural romances in small bites may enjoy the collection nevertheless. KC

JONES, URSULA, ad. *Beauty and the Beast*; illus. by Sarah Gibb. Whitman, 2014 [34p]

ISBN 978-0-8075-0600-4 \$16.99

Reviewed from galleys

R 5-9 yrs

Most of the familiar elements from the classic fairy tale are present in this retelling, from the shallow, jealous sisters to Beauty's request for a rose to the Beast's near-death experience resulting from Beauty's prolonged home visit. Jones' iteration, though, manages to be both elegant and casual, with a refreshing sprinkling of humor throughout: "Does that mean we're poor now?" Beauty asked her father. And all the suitors backed out of the room so fast they jammed in the doorway. "Was it something I said?" Beauty asked." The text is accessibly written, with shorter sentences and mostly elementary vocabulary putting the tale, despite its length here, within the comprehension of many younger listeners. The theme is also made overt in the dialogue, with the Beauty stating at one point that "some monsters look awful, but inside they are really very kind, and some people look very kind, but inside they are monsters." Gibbs' illustrations are effective in their compositions and ornate details, lending enough structure and weight—particularly in the spreads utilizing intricate black silhouettes accented with more minimal color—to balance the candy-colored pastels of the clothing and décor. While Marianna and Mercer Mayer's *Beauty and the Beast* (BCCB 12/78) is still hard to beat visually and textually, adults trying to broaden the horizons of kids who stubbornly insist on preferring the ubiquitous Disney princesses will find this title an easier sell and a perfect bridge to a different fairy-tale presentation. JH

KEHOE, STASIA WARD *The Sound of Letting Go*. Viking, 2014 [400p]

ISBN 978-0-670-01553-5 \$17.99

Reviewed from galleys

R Gr. 7-10

Ever since Daisy's autistic younger brother, Steven, turned from unresponsive little boy to threatening manchild, she and her parents have lived on a knife-edge of tension, fearing that a loud sound, a burnt waffle, an errant bad smell could trigger a violent outburst. Daisy empathizes with her parents' desire to escape, finding release herself through playing her trumpet in the soundproofed room her parents have built for her. She knows that both her musical success and its limitations are due to her brother's condition; her survivor's guilt trumpets from every poem in this staggeringly honest verse novel about living with someone at the far end of the spectrum. What sets this work apart is that it tells the whole truth about that experience, from the strain it puts on a marriage, to the financial drain, to the compulsion to hide how bad things are and the isolation that brings, to the heightened emphasis on control and perfection that she and her mother experience, her with